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REMARKS

Claims 1-30 of the application stand rejected. Claims 3, 5, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 23, 24 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10-12, 15-16, 18-20, 22, 25-26 and 28-30 have been amended herein to more clearly define the scope of the presently claimed invention. Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of pending Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10-12, 15-16, 18-20, 22, 25-26 and 28-30 in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected Claims 4, 6, 9-14, 16-18, 20-24, 26-28 and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner pointed to various erroneous dependencies in these claims that gave rise to the rejection. Claims 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 23, 24 and 27 have been canceled and the rejection to these claims is therefore moot. As for the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully submit that, as amended herein, the claims overcome the various dependency errors. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection to Claims 4, 6, 9-14, 16-18, 20-24, 26-28 and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 15, 19 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Sharma et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,480,825 ("Sharma"). The Examiner submits that Sharma discloses all the elements in these claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Sharma discloses a system and method for detecting a recorded voice. Specifically, Sharma describes a system and method to analyze the temporal characteristics of a user's speech, analyze the characteristics of the channel over which the user's voice is transmitted, train a pattern classifier to recognize the difference between live and recorded speech and employ an "audio watermark" to detect use of a recording of a previous enrollment or verification attempt (Sharma, Col. 3, lines 13-23).

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The focus of Sharma is therefore to examine various characteristics of user speech to identify differences between live and/or recorded speech.

In contrast, the present invention is directed at utilizing speaker and channel information to continuously and dynamically improve speech recognition. More specifically, by analyzing the speaker (user) and channel information, an appropriate speech model may be dynamically selected, to better interpret the speaker's speech. As claimed in the independent claims, based on initial context information (e.g., user information and/or channel information), a default speech model may be selected. Thereafter, a dynamic determination may be made whether a new speech model is a better fit for the context information, and if so, the new speech model may be selected as the new default speech model, to replace the originally selected default speech model. Sharma does not disclose at least these elements of utilizing speaker and channel information to dynamically change the selected speech model to better suit the context information of the input speech. Sharma therefore does not anticipate Claims 1-3, 5-8, 15, 19 and 25.

Additionally, Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Junqua et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,415,257 ("Junqua"). The Examiner contends that Junqua disclose all the elements of Claim 29. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Junqua describes a system for identifying and adapting a TV-user profile by means of speech technology. In Junqua, a user's identity may be verified by a verification/identification module based on the user's speech, and then a predefined or prestored set of user preferences may be invoked to further guide the interaction between the user and the system (Junqua, Col. 1, lines 42-54). Thus, for example, Junqua teaches the user of user verification and preferences to block channels from certain viewers (Junqua, Col. 2, lines 64-67 and Col. 3, lines 1-5). There is no teaching or suggestion in Junqua to utilize context information to improve speech recognition.

According to Claim 29, a control module may select a default speech model based on initial context information (e.g., user information and/or channel information). Thereafter, the context module may dynamically determine whether a new speech model is a better fit for the context information, and if so, the new speech model may be selected as the new default speech model, to replace the originally selected default speech

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model. A recognition engine capable of receiving an input speech may additionally receive information from the control module as to an appropriate speech model to use to convert the input speech stream to an output text stream. Junqua does not disclose at least these elements of Claim 29 and therefore does not anticipate Claim 29.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that Sharma and Junqua do not anticipate Claims 1-3, 5-8, 15, 19, 25 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection to these claims.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Sharma in view of Junqua. The Examiner contends that Sharma teaches all the elements of Claim 1 while Junqua additionally teaches the use of personal characteristics such as the age of users to block certain channels. The Examiner therefore suggests that Sharma in view of Junqua render Claim 4 unpatentable. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 4 is dependant on Claim 1. As previously described, Sharma does not teach various elements of Claim 1. The addition of Junqua also does not teach these various elements. Thus, regardless of whether Junqua teaches the use of personal characteristics, Sharma and Junqua, alone or in combination do not teach all the elements of Claim 4. As such, Applicants submit that Claim 4 is patentable over Sharma and/or Junqua and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection to this claim under 35 U.S.C. §103.

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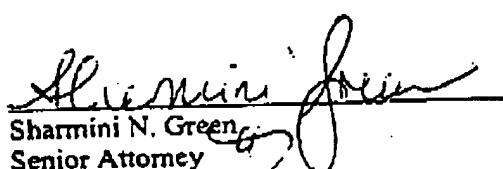
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that pending Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10-12, 15-16, 18-20, 22, 25-26 and 28-30 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 406-2362.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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